

NOV. 22/93

NOV 22, 1993



**ALL IS NOT WELL  
ON THE INTERNET...**  
**PLUS! HOW TO E-MAIL  
BILL CLINTON!**

by Max Francisco • see page 5

**McGill Senate Shenanigans**



**FEE HIKE, FASCIST  
FUNDING, PASS/FAIL  
GRADING AND MORE!**

by Damion Stodola • see page 3

**STUDENT HOUSING  
CO-OP OPEN FOR  
BUSINESS**



by Carrina Gordon • see page 6

# THE MCGILL DAILY

VOLUME 83 • NUMBER 43

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993

## Shatner blood drive won't fly

*Students at McGill and Concordia accuse Red Cross of homophobia*

BY KRISTIN ANDREWS

Students at Canadian and American universities are beginning to put pressure on the Red Cross to stop excluding gay and bisexual men from giving blood.

The Red Cross currently screens gay men because they are considered to be at high risk for contracting HIV.

"They should be targeting high risk activities, and not high risk groups," said Mary Margaret Jones, a member of Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of McGill (LBGM). "The questionnaire doesn't take into account safe sex," she said.

Jones spoke at a meeting of the Students' Society of McGill University two weeks ago. Students' Society voted by a narrow margin to cease sponsoring blood drives on campus until the Red Cross changes its policies.

The Concordia University Students' Association (CUSA) voted last Thursday on a similar motion. While Concordia agreed in principle that the donor screening questionnaire is discriminatory, they were sharply divided on whether CUSA ought to stop sponsoring blood drives on those grounds.

CUSA will put the question to a school-wide referendum in February, just prior to the next blood drive, which is scheduled for March.

CUSA member Michelle Soso will circulate a petition to hold the referendum on December 1, which is World AIDS day. A referendum will cost the deficit-ridden Concordia Students' Society \$6 000.

### Hot topic

Debates on the motion to stop sponsoring the Red Cross turned into late-night shouting matches at both McGill and Concordia.

The Concordia meeting almost came to blows when Mary Margaret Jones snapped at Concordia council member Shadi Khader's comment that the screening policy was not "discrimination" but "regulation".

"Spoken like a white, straight male," she said.

Although Jones apologized immediately, Khader demanded that she be removed from the room. His demand was one of many requests that the "peanut gallery" (as board members continued to refer the

group of African, Caribbean and queer students present) be thrown out for commenting out of turn.

Khader and Concordia Queer Collection external coordinator James Edwards began to argue, men jumped across the mahogany tables to hold Khader back when he lunged at Edwards, and the chairperson's gavel rang out until the room was cleared for a ten minute recess.

When the meeting began again, CUSA co-president Lana Grimes announced that "If anyone laughs, giggles, claps or speaks out of line they will be automatically and permanently expelled."

Three security guards hovered outside the seventh-floor conference room to enforce the order.

### Blood vs. Rights

Opponents of the blood drive boycott said that the Red Cross should be given a chance to change their questionnaire before students acted to limit an already scarce blood supply.

Dr. Gilles Delage, Deputy Medical Director of the Red Cross, said that the questionnaire is already being reevaluated. Last month, the Red Cross decided to remove a question which currently prohibits people from sub-Saharan Africa and the

Caribbean to give blood.

But a copy of the proposed questionnaire which will be introduced in 1994 still contains the controversial question about gay sex.

"Gay males remain a very high risk group," said Delage. In almost 80 per cent of all AIDS cases reported in Canada last year, transmission was associated with men having sex with other men.

"I think it's ironic that on the one hand, we're being battered by gay groups who say we're too selective," Delage said. "And on the other hand we're being battered in the press for not being diligent enough."

But Edwards said that blood supply is not made safer by excluding gay men. "I'm a gay man, and I don't have anal sex with my boyfriend. I should be allowed to give blood," he said.

"You have to ask, 'Have you had unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse?' That's a high risk activity," Edwards said.

Nowhere on the current or the proposed screening questionnaire does the Red Cross ask potential donors if they have ever engaged in unprotected sex.

But recent statistics from the AIDS action group ACT-UP state that the fastest growing group of



Mary-Margaret Joans, member Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals of McGill

people who test positive for HIV are heterosexual women.

Inspired by the actions taken at Concordia and McGill, Anthony Roberts has requested a copy of the motion to present to the Dalhousie Student Union in Halifax. Roberts is the president of the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie (BGLAD!).

Simon Fraser University in Brit-

ish Columbia will also be considering a proposal to boycott the Red Cross blood drive on campus.

"In order to put real pressure on the Red Cross... we need to make this an international issue," said Roberts.

In the United States, one student was arrested by campus police at Pasadena City College in Los Angeles for protests against the Red Cross.

## AIDS discrimination complaints aired at hearing

*Confidentiality in health care system also an issue in Human Rights Commission submissions*

BY STEPHANIE PAJEVIC

MONTRÉAL (CUP) — A doctor announcing an HIV positive diagnosis in a room full of people is just an example of the discrimination people living with AIDS face, says a Montréal community care group.

Discrimination against people with AIDS begins with the idea that AIDS is a "gay disease", according to AIDS Community Care of Montréal (ACCM), in a presentation last Tuesday to the Québec Human Rights Commission's public hearings on discrimination against gays and lesbians.

"We still suffer from myths put out a decade ago," said David Cassidy, Director of Social Services at ACCM. "The people we represent tend to be victims of discrimination."

The ACCM, is a non-profit organization that runs services for anyone living with AIDS. Most of their activities are run by an extensive volunteer network.

Although the majority of the people with AIDS in the world are heterosexuals, the perception of AIDS as a gay problem means anyone with AIDS — straight or gay — faces homophobia or fear.

The ACCM told the commission that privacy and confidentiality are important for anyone living with AIDS, and that doctors and hospital staff should respect this privacy unless another person's life is at risk. According to the ACCM, doctors and nurses often give out information instead of keeping the patient's confidentiality. They said it's common for cases to be discussed in cafeterias or nursing sta-

tions, and that doctors share information with their secretaries or colleagues.

The ACCM is pushing the commission to put task forces in hospitals to ensure confidentiality and more restricted access to charts and data on computers. As well, all patients should be told that they have a right to refuse treatment from a student in teaching hospitals, they say.

Many professional services are refused to AIDS victims. Dentists in private practices can refuse to treat those with AIDS. Some funeral homes will only cremate people who have died of AIDS. And some doctors refuse to operate on AIDS patients.

In the workplace, people with AIDS have been fired from their jobs. This leaves then no choice but

to go on welfare. In welfare offices, cases are shared all over the office and files seem to mysteriously disappear, according to the ACCM.

In one case a woman was fired from her job when it was discovered that her brother died of AIDS.

"People with AIDS are afraid to use public services but most could press charges if they had more freedom," said Cassidy. "They don't have the time to pursue charges, and discrimination wins."

The ACCM made several other recommendations to the Québec Human Rights Commission. The first was for more publicity and public information campaigns. According to the brief on AIDS discrimination, "most people with AIDS are too weak to seek out help, but if it was readily available, people might make more use out of it."

DAILY PHOTO BY TARA CHARRAN



$$S = \frac{a(r^n - 1)}{r - 1} = \frac{a(1 - r^n)}{1 - r} = \frac{9[1 - (-2/3)^7]}{1 - (-2/3)} = \frac{9[1 - (-128/2187)]}{5/3} = \frac{463}{81}$$

Also  $a/r + a + ar = 26$ ,  $6/r + 6 + 6r = 26$ ,  $6r^2 - 20r + 6 = 0$  and  $r = 1/3, 3$ .

Hence the 8th term  $= ar^7 = (ar^4)r^3 = \frac{81}{8}(\frac{27}{8}) = \frac{2187}{64}$ .  
 Then  $375r^3 = 192$ ,  $r^3 = 64/125$  and  $r = 4/5$ .  
 $S = \frac{a(1 - r^n)}{1 - r} = \frac{375[1 - (4/5)^4]}{1 - 4/5} = 1107$ .  
 $\frac{ar^2 + ar^3}{a + ar} = \frac{ar^2(1 + r)}{a(1 + r)} = r^2 = \frac{72}{8} = 9$ , so that  $r = 3$ .

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## MCGILL SENATE BRIEFS

BY DAMION STODOLA

Ah Senate... Glorious august Senate. Every two weeks this body composed primarily of wealthy white males passes down verdict on matters of university administration.

The weak voice of students comes through in their 11 seats, out of the 85 representatives. Next meeting is December 1 at 2:30 in Leacock 232.

**Luz boogies to the fee-hike shuffle**

As this intrepid journalist was being forced into a slow and painful sleep, our beloved Students' Society president, Mark Luz, aroused the crowd with a startling comment in response to vp finance John Armour's budget presentation.

"Please keep in consideration McGill student loans in the budget," said Luz. While the sentiment is admirable, it is something I would expect from one of the dehydrated old males rather than a student representative.

In the 1994-1995 budget, McGill is counting and supporting a government tuition fee increase of 25 per cent, yet not one of our elected student representatives challenged this.



**"What about my alma mater!" — McGill class of 1961 grad Bill Shatner biffs Mark Luz over fee hikes.**

Luz is effectively compromising the principle of accessible education by not asking for free student aid. His pithy request for increased loans instead is reprehensible. Students will bear the brunt of government manoeuvres. Ah well, corporatism hits the Students' Society.

**Pass/Fail grading at McGill — What will Maclean's think?**

Following an uphill battle for a pass/fail option at McGill, and a year and a half of debate Senate finally voted to implement it for the next academic year.

The proposal is greatly watered

down from that of most other North American universities. McGill students at the undergraduate level will only be able to take pass/fail electives to a maximum of 9 credits over their entire degree.

The motion carried following loud and heated protests from the Arts Faculty and Laurie Gottlieb. She argued each department should have the power to designate which courses will apply to the option (this effectively destroys the spirit of the proposal).

Otherwise, Gottlieb claimed, students would flock to courses they were not qualified for and compromise the academic integrity of the university.

Professor DuBow disagreed. "Other respectable universities like Yale have had it since before the students who proposed it were born," said DuBow. "I don't think McGill will fall down in the Maclean's survey if we implement this proposal!"

If people like DuBow stick around, maybe Senate does have potential.

**No Sasagawa**

McGill officially denied being in contact with the Sasagawa Foundation, an organization run by a

former Japanese Fascist who is trying to donate money to various North American institutions.

"No discussion is under way and the administration is aware of Sasagawa's background. The University hasn't been engaged with the foundation," said vp advancement (fundraising) Michael Kiefer.

Last summer, the Japanese consul-general got in touch with the McGill administration to arrange a meeting between McGill and the Sasagawa foundation when they come to Montréal in 1994. "Being unaware of their background, and before knowing all the things we now know about the foundation we said yes, but that has changed," said Kiefer.

"Any foundation with a questionable background will have to go to an executive committee," he concluded.

**Sound bites**

Prof. Sam Noumoff inquired if associate deans could demand prescription bills in addition to doctor's notes when students miss exams or tests. Student services Dean Irwin Gopnik said if the note comes from Student Health Services it should be taken at face value, but there were no official policies for notes from outside McGill.

# U of Toronto mock kidnapping disturbs students

BY G. BRUCE ROLSTON

TORONTO (CUP) — A mock kidnapping staged by the University of Toronto chapter of Amnesty International failed to have the desired effect upon the audience.

Campus officials immediately condemned the act. "I think it isn't fair to mislead people about what appears to be a violent action," said David Neelands, the University of Toronto's assistant vice-president for student affairs.

U of T's chapter of Amnesty, an international human rights organization, staged the event in a third-year political science class.

Ten minutes before the modern political thought lecture ended, two men dressed in dark clothing entered the class and said to a student, "Simone Stothers, you're coming with us."

Stothers was then forcibly carried out of the room.

While the rest of the class sat and watched, teaching assistant Carrie Hull attempted to intervene, holding one of the "kidnappers" and preventing him from leaving the room.

Hull, who was not aware the kidnapping would take place, said later she had suddenly thought of the 1991 incident where a student was drawn out of a class in the university's medical science building and brutally stabbed.

"It was spontaneous," she said of her defense.

At that point, members of Amnesty and professor Gad Horowitz intervened to calm the agitated class.

"This is a really apathetic university unfortunately, and we need to get people to realize what's happening in the world," member Ruth Cohen told them.

Horowitz said he let Amnesty stage the event because he thought it would raise awareness of human rights.

Simone Stothers, the Amnesty member who played the victim, said she was sur-

prised that someone intervened.

A similar event was staged by the Victoria College Amnesty group last year, but no one physically intervened.

It is this possibility of misunderstanding that concerns Neelands.

**"It's one thing to highlight the significance of violent kidnapping. It's another thing to lead people into believing they're observing one"**  
— David Neelands, U of T assistant vp university affairs

"It's one thing to highlight the significance of violent kidnapping. It's another thing to lead people into believing they're observing one," he said.

"It's not playing fair with the bystanders."

But a spokesperson for Amnesty's Toronto branch applauded the U of T group for their initiative.

"Good for them," said staffer Marilyn McKim.

McKim said she had never heard of Amnesty groups using "mock kidnappings," although the Toronto branch had been considering similar actions themselves.

"We've been thinking about doing this kind of thing with public figures."

John Tackaberry, spokesperson for Amnesty Canada, raised an eyebrow when told

about the mock kidnappings.

"The object of the exercise is to symbolically recreate the reality, but not in a way where we produce horror in the observers," he said.

Tackaberry said mock kidnappings were almost never used by Amnesty groups. He said the U of T group ran the risk of traumatizing members of the class, such as foreign students from repressive countries or victims of violence.

"They could be forcing people to relive their own experience. There's no way we as an organization want to inadvertently cause

a trauma."

At least one member of the kidnapping team disagreed. "I think it's neat when people have problems when we do guerilla theatre," he said. "Maybe if we do things that shock people and disturb people, maybe people will start to think."

Amnesty International, founded by British lawyer Peter Benenson in 1961, currently has over one million members in 150 countries. The group received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its contributions to the release of thousands of political prisoners worldwide.

## FOR YOUR SAFETY

The Walksafe Network (WSN) and the Sexual Assault Centre of McGill's Students Society (SACOM) have been authorized by those reporting incidents to release the following information in order to raise awareness for personal safety.

Last year, there were many reported incidents regarding women being followed by a man into the women's bathroom facilities in the McLennan library. Several women have reported that when they entered an individual bathroom stall, they noticed a man peering over the partition (ie. "Peeping-Tom"). As it has come to our attention that these incidents are re-occurring this year, we feel that it is important that women be aware when using the bathroom facilities in McLennan library.

On November 13th at 11:00am, on the North-East corner of Sherbrooke and Bishop streets, a woman reported that as a man walked passed her he deliberately spat at her. He is described as "darkskinned", approximately 5'7 and 140 lbs, having black feathered hair and a mustache. At the time of the incident, the man was wearing a beige wind-breaker and black pants.

If you wish to report an assault or incident or would like to voice any concerns regarding the content of this column, please call SACOM (398-2700) and/or the WSN (398-2498).

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## COMMENT

## Violence is everywhere

### So is the solution

51 per cent of women in Canada have been physically or sexually abused by men. What are we going to do about it?

Yesterday's papers were slathered with the "news" that abuse is the norm, and not the exception. Women's groups have come to much the same conclusion in independent studies, but when Statscan says it, we have to listen.

So listen. One quarter of respondents were victims of violence in a current or previous marriage. Physical injury was caused in 18 per cent of the attacks although police were only notified in 14 per cent of the cases.

Violence against women has often been dismissed as a mere phenomenon, a rarity afflicting only a minority of women. And yet study after study reveals that these "women's issues", are societal issues, and must be addressed as such. Women account for 53 per cent of the population. We are certainly not a minority.

Half of women, and thus one quarter of Canadians, are victims of violent physical and sexual abuse. Such an endemic problem requires fundamental changes.

#### Our demands:

- Violence against women stems from a basic power inequality between women and men in society. Serious reflection is long overdue on the factors encouraging such abuse, and the barriers women face in protecting themselves.

- Poverty and a lack of other opportunities force women back into abusive relationships. Qualitative changes are needed in encouraging self-sufficiency and education so that women can lead independent lives.

- We need to create police task forces more sensitive to violence against women. Too often the police are inadequately trained, and victims do not receive adequate support or response.

- Anti-stalking laws and protection programs need to be enforced and publicized in such a manner that offenders realize that violence will be dealt with seriously.

- Women's support groups and crisis networks must be at the forefront of legislative change not simply "consulted" after policy issues and legislative reform has already been decided.

- The Liberals' pledge to increase funding to women's shelters is promising. Better community resources through local organizations provide an accessible place to turn.

But most essential to an effective system of confronting violence against women are measures of prevention, not response.

- Community involvement should play a vital role; neighbours, co-workers, friends, and employers cannot close their eyes to this ubiquitous abuse. Twenty-two per cent of the women reporting had not told others of their abuse before the Statscan report.

In a society which "guarantees" equal protection to all of its citizens, these statistics represent an unacceptable reality. Too many of the steps which the Canadian government has taken to stop the rise of violence against women have done nothing more than scratch the surface.

We all need to take a more active role in re-structuring how we deal with this issue. If the problem lies in the root of our society, that's where we should look for the answers.

Kristen Boon, Pat Harewood, Melanie Newton, Kristin Andrews

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## HYDE PARK

## Accountability, Sirs

An opinion by Martin Dufresne, for Montréal Men Against Sexism

In response to Todd Zwillich, I'd like to clarify precisely how events "unfolded" last Thursday [Nov. 11] evening. It is easy to create an impression of "scientific ignorance and reactionism" and of suppressed freedom of speech. These were the substantive issues. But I argue that the guilty parties were McGill, the Montréal General Hospital and the FMS Foundation (FMSF).

By accepting Lief's refusal of a balanced, scientific debate on a crucial issue, McGill in effect silenced (and turned into a "noisy crowd") the sexual abuse survivors, health care professionals and mental patient advocates threatened by the FMSF's lobbying. (Faced with the same challenge two weeks ago, U of Toronto *did* organize a balanced panel. So did Harbourfront.)

By inviting Lief to conduct a two-day training session on child abuse allegations, McGill and the MGH had made a terrible mistake. The FMS Foundation is a powerful lobby representing men accused of sexual abuse and flooding the mass media with right-wing attacks on survivors and therapists. *The Family Therapy Networker* (Sept. 93) re-

veals that they advise these parents in instigating lawsuits against children and therapists. One of their co-founders has issued statements inviting pedophiles to assert their choice as 'God's will'. Memory experts are highly critical of the foundation's agenda and "theory"—an alleged 'syndrome', invented by the FMSF.

By refusing to take into account this information (well-documented and submitted to organizers as early as Oct. 10) and the 1700+ letters and postcards received from concerned health-care professionals, community organizations, child protection workers, crisis centres and self-help groups demanding a balanced presentation, McGill and the MGH have in effect rejected accountability to the community.

Was freedom of speech denied Thursday, Friday and Saturday? Yes, but it was that of survivors, mental health personnel and scientists. (It is obvious that Lief's speech was in fact greatly enhanced, via the media.) A question and answer period was (finally) offered by Dean Cruess, but he chose to terminate it after the first question and revert to a unilateral lecture format. Wasn't

that open provocation? For what purpose?

Finally let's not forget that Thursday's lecture at McGill was a foil to pressures applied concerning Friday and Saturday's 'symposium' at the MGH, where the FMSF *did* control discussion of what child abuse allegations were to be deemed false. After weeks of challenge and grandstanding, organizers agreed to open a two-hour discussion period there. Still, Dr. Connie Kristiansen — who managed to list (Thursday evening) some of the many empirical studies which Lief merely dismisses, before she was cut off by Cruess — was kept for two hours from entering the premises (for looking 'too lesbian').

This is a real silencing, the kind of censorship and negligence survivors still experience from publicly-funded institutions. A survivor thanked us with tears in his eyes for having stood up to McGill's clout Thursday. In-depth critical reports are coming out now that the FMS lobby has been outed. We are entitled to an intelligent debate on such a crucial speech-threatening issue. The problem was that McGill and Lief wouldn't have it.

## LETTERS

#### We all own Toyotas

To the Daily:

You left wing psychos just can't stand success can you? When a company is successful you do all you can to bring it down. When a person becomes successful you try to take it all away from him through high taxes.

When your university is ranked the best in the country you bitch about James McGill owning slaves 150 years ago and Otto Mass building mass destruction (clever pun) bombs. (Things Maclean's Forgot Nov. 15) If you don't like it then go to Nipissing University or Hull, where there is a racial harassment policy in place and where the #1 ranking is unlikely to rear its ugly head.

This survey was done based on the quality of education a student can expect, not its history. Like it or not McGill is the best. What

happened hundreds of years ago is irrelevant.

I'm sure at least one of your staff members drives a Japanese car. Does that mean they support the wartime atrocities committed by the country? No. Same way students here don't necessarily support the slaves, the Otto Mass bombs and CIA experiments (although I've never heard of anything like that).

As for the tuition hikes, McGill is one of the cheapest universities in Canada. Look around you, the buildings are slowly decaying. A few hundred dollars a year increase in tuition is needed to keep the university running.

If tuition rose \$500, McGill would still be cheaper than U of T, Queen's and UBC. I would like to see tuition stay at its current level, but the time will come when there will be no choice but to hike it.

Eduard Dordea, U1 Arts

**SINCE 1911**  
**Vol. 83 No. 43**

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**THE MCGILL DAILY**



# Laws governing the internet unclear

McGill considering regulating students' e-mail and news groups

BY MAX FRANCISCO

What are the laws governing cyberspace?

A move by McGill to consider regulating messages on the internet system which passes through McGill has raised serious questions of the legal status of computer users.

The internet is a computer-based world-wide exchange of mail and information among academic institutions and private organizations. McGill students can get access to e-mail or file transfer on the internet by going to the McGill Computing Centre in Burnside Hall.

Currently there are no specific laws which govern the rights of the computer user, nor are there any laws or precedents which state what an institution such as McGill can and cannot do to monitor computer use.

Until a test case is brought before the courts, there is no legal direction whether a university is responsible for what is posted or received via the message base on its network.

McGill, for its part, has chosen to be responsible for anything coming or going from the McGill Computing Facilities.

"McGill has responsibility for these (message-based) postings" said François Tavenas, McGill Vice Principal Planning and Resources. "We own the computers, we have McGill people running the systems."

There are, however, many other universities who have decentralized responsibility of what is distributed by their computer systems.

The University of Waterloo does not see itself as responsible for what happens with its computer system. A report issued by the University of Waterloo Computer policy committee stated that it was not necessary for the university to "take on the role of *loco parentis*" regarding material on its networks.

"In particular, we see no need for a committee... to monitor the contents of items, noting that the current daily volume of approximately 11 megabytes arriving at the University makes such monitoring impossible," the committee said in their report.

Galen Duncan, a lecturer on computing and the law at McGill, said that electronic communication is most often compared to two widespread forms of communication: the telephone and cable television.

"If I phoned you, and began making racist statements, who is responsible?" said Duncan. "You'd sue me, not the telephone company. Now what if I phoned in on a talk show and made the same statements, who would I sue? Now, I can sue the cable company."

The obvious objection to this reasoning would be that the cable company has no way of knowing what the individual would say on



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the talk show. But Duncan said, "What about the cable companies' right to have a signal delay system?"

A signal delay system would delay the transmission long enough for the cable company to censor out any offensive material. While some may argue that the censorship is unconstitutional, it is an easy way for the cable companies to protect themselves.

Electronic communication sits somewhere between the privacy of the telephone system and the open platform of cable television networks.

Electronic mail, the simple exchange of messages from one person or group to another, could be associated with the legalities of telephone communication.

However, message-based electronic communication such as USENET news-groups, an information exchange that individuals can "subscribe" to for free, would seem to fall under the cable television model.

However, Mike from McGill Legal Aid (who could not give his last name), said that the idea of a message-base could be compared to the

recent Keegstra case, in which a teacher was charged with spreading hate propaganda in the classroom. He was arrested, but the institution was not blamed for what happened.

This would be a strong argument against centralizing responsibility, and the policy could be noted in a disclaimer. The disclaimer may prove ineffective, though.

"Whenever you go skiing there is a disclaimer that any injuries are not the fault of the facilities, and they have placed the disclaimer on the lift tickets," said Mike. "But it's been ruled that these disclaimers are useless, because of negligence and what not."

There are no clear-cut laws for what happens in cyberspace. As of yet, there has not been any case history on infractions in cyberspace, it is an anarchic society that governs itself. Until a case is brought up to the courts the laws that govern cyberspace will never solidify.

If you have come across any form of censorship or discrimination on the net, e-mail the Daily at #MCD@MUSICA.MCGILL.CA with the subject heading NET CENSORSHIP.



## E-mailing President Bill

*president@whitehouse.gov*

Have you ever wanted to put pen to paper and write to your favourite head of state? With the telecommunications revolution at hand, this is now very easy. Of course, don't expect Bill Clinton to send you an instant reply on White House letterhead.

The Daily wrote the president a little letter, and this is what we got back...

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Sincerely,

Marsha Scott  
Deputy Assistant to the President and  
Director of Correspondence and Presidential  
Messages

[You will only receive one automated response per day]

— Zack Taylor



# First student co-op opens in Montréal

New housing complex now member of North American association

BY CARRINA GORDON

The building is there, the renovations are almost done, and on January 1, Montréal's first student housing co-op will open its doors.

Work towards the co-op first began in 1990 by a group of students from McGill, Concordia, and UQAM, and has been supported from the beginning by the Québec Public Interest Research Group (Québec PIRG). By July 1993, the building at 7421 Boulevard Saint-Laurent was purchased and now renovations are in progress to bring the building up to the building code standards.

The co-op has had the financial support of the Campus Co-operative Residence Incorporated of Toronto and the Waterloo Co-operative Residence Incorporated in Waterloo, two student housing co-ops in Ontario and members of North American Students of Cooperation (NASCO).

The Pink Triangle Student Housing Co-op is now the first student co-operative in Montréal and the second in Québec to become a member of NASCO.

Peter King, president of the Pink Triangle co-op said that becoming a member of NASCO will give the co-op a more active role in a network of other student co-ops across North America.

"NASCO permits co-ops to come together and discuss problems that may arise and their possible solutions," said King. "Information of new policies and the overall philosophy of co-operatives are explained and shared."

The student co-op was formed

in reaction to the high rents students pay, working for affordable housing. In contrast to the McGill ghetto, where the average rent for a 1 1/2 is approximately \$325, the average rent for a single room in the co-op is \$195.

Robin Long will be one of the 31 students moving into the Pink Triangle co-op this January.

Daron Westman, secretary of the student co-op, stresses the revolutionary ideas that the co-op is introducing as an interesting alternative.

"In the co-op there are no landlords, but it is rather the students themselves who own the building, paying into the mortgage and taking an active role in the co-op issues," said Westman.

Robin Long, a member of the Pink Triangle co-op, is counting down the days until she can move in on January 1. "What I like about the co-op is that I am involved. I

DAILY PHOTO: CHANTELE CLEMENTS

Although dedicated to the idea of affordable living, the student co-op is a project much larger than just cheap rents according to Phil Ashton, treasurer of the Pink Triangle Student Housing Co-op.

"In the past, student co-ops have been places open to diverse ideas," said Ashton. "Now in Montréal, students will also have the opportunity to confront new ideas and other perspectives on life."

Living in the student co-op will be an immersion among people of different communities, backgrounds, and sexual orientations, providing a comfortable living area for straight and queer people. A balance in gender, and with Anglophone and Francophone students shall also be kept.

"Rather than isolating people from different backgrounds, the co-op will be a place where people can live, work, and learn together, and I am very excited to take part in it."

Now members of NASCO, the co-op has things well under way, looking forward to opening their doors January first. The student housing co-op is an exciting project, cheaply housing students of different cultures and sexual identity under the principle of diversity and solidarity.

Anyone who would like more information about the Pink Triangle Student Housing Co-op should call 398-7432, and ask for The Coop.

## Day care mix-up angers Dalhousie Native students

BY EMILY MACNAUGHTON

HALIFAX (CUP) — Cynthia Brooks had just begun classes at Dalhousie University this year when she was told she couldn't put her four-year-old son in day care because of her native background.

The university told her a government policy existed which denied day care to natives. When she requested a copy of the policy, she was told by a university office that "it was more of a verbal agreement."

Brooks could not afford the full cost of day care, which can run to more than \$700 a month, and was almost ready to drop out of university.

She wasn't alone. At least nine Nova Scotia native women were denied subsidized day care in what was later blamed on an intergovernmental mix-up.

The mistake wasn't corrected until government and native representatives met on Oct. 20, and many native students are still indignant.

"We received no notice, no reason for the decision, no written policy announcing the decision and no one apologized. We've been told that we'll be reimbursed but I'm not so sure," Brooks said. "We're

relieved that this crisis has been resolved but we're not happy."

The fault lay in a confusion within the Nova Scotia bureaucracy over which level of government was responsible for funding native students, said provincial director of Day Care Services Greg Gammon.

The Post-secondary Student Support System, offered at the federal level by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, previously provided financial assistance for native students. In 1989-1990, day care responsibility was delegated to the provinces.

When asked why the Department of Community Services was unaware of the changes to the federal program, Gammon replied: "It is not practice for the federal government to notify provincial governments of these changes. There is no mechanism in place to ensure this information is passed along. It is unfortunate that this had to happen but at least when there is a lack of communication, things like this come up and changes can be made."

Native leaders said they'd forgive the government this time. "In the future they'll know to consult the Department of Indian and

Northern Affairs and the community before making these decisions," said Christine Gibson, child development center coordinator for the Mi'kmaq nation.

However, the experience has left some students feeling unsupported.

"I was shocked," said Mount St. Vincent University student April Maloney. "I've never really experienced discrimination but this made me realize that it really happens. I wasn't prepared to let this situation go without a fight."

### SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTRE of McGill Student Society 398-2700



MYTH: A woman claims to have been raped, but is seen at a bar/party the next night — she must be lying.

FACT: Everyone deals with trauma differently. There is no single method for dealing with sexual assault.

### SARAJEVO GROUND ZERO

Friends of Bosnia in McGill invite you to screening of above film (55 min) on Thursday 25 Nov at 7 pm in Leacock Fieldhouse (132) auditorium. Admission \$2.50, all proceeds go for Bosnian relief.

### EVENTS

Amnesty International Legal Network presents Bill Shabas, law professor at UQAM and an expert on capital punishment. Today at 13h00, 3661 Peel room 106. For more info call: Marjan 842-9747.

McGill Association of International Students general meeting Wednesday, November 24 at 18h00, Room 435 Union. To discuss activities for students staying in Montréal through the December holidays.

McDonald-Currie Lecture Series presents Jerry A Fodor, department of Philosophy at Rutgers University. Topic: The Problem of Concepts in Cognitive Science. Today at 17h30 in Leacock 26. All Welcome.

Sarajevo Ground Zero, a film showing how the Bosnian capital struggles to resist a bloody siege, will be screened next Thursday. Friends of Bosnia in McGill invite you to the movie at 19h00 Nov. 25 in Leacock 132. Admission \$2.50.

The Islamic Society of McGill and the Islamic Cultural Network invite everybody to ISLAM AWARENESS DAY today, from 12h00 to 18h00 in the Union Ballroom (301). Come expand your mind, learn about the world's fastest growing religion.

The Concordia School of Community and Public Affairs invites you to a lecture by David Rochefort, professor of Political Science at Northern University, Boston. Topic: The US Health care debate: Problems and Prospects.

Calling all signers, dancers, actors, accompanists, choreographers and directors. The Savoy Society's Broadway Revue has been rescheduled to January. This is your chance to shine! Call 342-9933/398-6826 for more info.

SSMU and Brave New Waves (CBC Stereo) present "Non-secular Confessions: The compulsive world of a diarist." A panel discussion moderated by Brent Brambury for a live broadcast. Thursday, November 25 noon to 13h00. Shatner 310.

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## Challenging the "true and free"

### Black poets write of joy, pain and remembrance



Amuna Baraka and Ted Runcie, members of the Diasporic African Poets

BY FARAH NAZARALI

At the Black Theater Workshop on November 12, two members of the group Diasporic African Poets (DAP), Amuna Baraka and Ted Runcie, gave an inspiring reading of their work.

Formed in the fall of 1991, DAP today consists of ten poets.

The poetry was both political and sentimental. In between the readings, Baraka and Runcie gave the

audience anecdotes of their lives and what inspired them.

The issue of police brutality against the Black community was a recurrent theme throughout. Baraka began by reminding us of the killing of Anthony Griffin in Montréal four years ago at the hands of the police. Her poem, or rather hymn, written while attending a funeral, recounts the story of a "black body shot by whitesupremistsin police uniform".

One poem, written when Runcie was seventeen, responded to the police brutality and racial harassment many Black men in Toronto face. Runcie, a former McGill student, challenged our much touted image of human dignity when he asked, "Can this north be true and free?"

In addition to the more political poems, both poets have written about love and inspiration. Although Baraka's *Foreplay* and *Love in the Nineties*, which were loaded with phallic symbolism, recounted her personal experiences, they addressed women in general. Some of Runcie's lighter works dealt with the role of the poet, and how it feels to be fired by one's muse.

My personal favorites were *Emotional* by Baraka and the three sonnets by Runcie. Baraka wrote *Emotional* after being criticized for breaking down and crying while giving a speech. The poem spoke of our need to feel sorrow and grief at

the losses of our brothers and sisters. Remembering those who have fought and died can give us strength to continue the fight against a society hostile to people of colour.

Many of Runcie's sonnets reveal a Shakespearean influence in their form and subject. I especially enjoyed the sonnet written in Harlem English, which was unique in its juxtaposition of modern slang and rigid form. It highlighted the sharp contrast between present and past.

The evening ended with an open stage allowing members of the audience to read their poetry.

The informal setting and friendly atmosphere gave the audience a great chance to interact with the poets. I look forward to future sessions where promising young poets, such as these two, will be heard again.

The Black Theatre Workshop is located at 1827 Ste. Catherine O., Suite 2. For information on upcoming events call 932-1104.

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## Prof suspended over rape article

University of New Brunswick math professor considers date rape normal

FREDERICTON & TORONTO (CUP)—An assistant math professor at the University of New Brunswick has been suspended after a date rape column he wrote in a student paper drew national attention.

Professor Martin Yaqzan's Nov. 5 opinion column in *The Brunswickan* argued that date rape is the fault of the woman, not the man involved.

"When a boy invites a girl to his bedroom, especially after meeting her for the first time, she should consider it an invitation for sexual intercourse," Yaqzan wrote.

Yaqzan also wrote that although sexual intercourse is a necessity for men of 17 or 18, a man of that age could not be "master of his sexual impulses."

"For those entering a university, the co-ed residences may be helpful," he wrote, "but they do not provide an opportunity for sexual gratification for all the male students, and therefore the reason for the so-called 'date rape'."

On Nov. 11, university vice-president Tom Traves announced he is initiating a full review of Yaqzan's "performance of his professional duties." Although triggered by the opinion column, the review will examine his entire employment record, Traves said.

UNB president Robin Armstrong would not say whether there were any other incidents in Yaqzan's teaching career which prompted the university's concern.

The review "will look into his professional responsibilities, which is a broader statement," he said.

SPat Fitzpatrick, vice-president of UNB's student council, applauded the university's decision, citing offensive remarks he said Yaqzan had made.

"I think it's wonderful. It's about time the university started taking a look at this man, and the atmos-

phere he creates in the classroom."

Fitzpatrick, who attended Yaqzan's class, said the suspended professor has a history of making anti-Semitic remarks in his lectures. He said Yaqzan told his math classes that the Holocaust was historically questionable.

"He said there may have been some people killed but it was not the Holocaust."

But UNB faculty association president Jack Vanderlinde defended the suspended professor. He said the administration had been spooked by media attention given to the case.

"I don't think our administration has the backbone to stand up to cries for blood," he said.

"His [Yaqzan's] individual rights have been marched across very solidly," Vanderlinde said, noting that Yaqzan had never been accused of any sex-related misconduct.

"There have not been charges of this kind before," he said. "He has never been accused of sex harassment or sex assault."

Vanderlinde claims the faculty association is fully behind Yaqzan.

"Neither I nor my membership supports his views, but we do support the right to air them."

Traves said the issue comes down to freedom of speech versus the university's sexual harassment policy.

Yaqzan's comments may fall under a clause in the policy condemning conduct that "creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment."

However, University President Armstrong said that Yaqzan's suspension does not necessarily mean the university's lawyer has found any evidence that his column violates the sexual harassment policy.

Although Yaqzan declined to comment on his suspension, in a statement released Thursday he said none of his students had discussed the article with him and he had not been contacted by any member of

the university's administration.

"Not a single student in my classes has brought up the subject of my opinion column, and they have all been well behaved," Yaqzan wrote.

"Some of them might now be persuaded or manipulated by the zealots of some misconceived and misguided women's organizations," he added.

Traves confirmed that no students enrolled in Yaqzan's courses had complained about the article.

Fitzpatrick applauded the decision of the student newspaper to run Yaqzan's unsolicited opinion piece.

"The Brunswickan printing this is doing a service by making the guy's views known."

In his article, Yaqzan claimed that women who were sexually active prior to a sexual assault would not suffer as much as those who were not active. He also states that when a woman has been sexually active prior to an assault she should "demand some monetary compensation for her inconvenience or discomfort rather than express moral outrage."

In his written statement, Yaqzan claimed his comments have been misunderstood.

"There seems to be a general lack of critical reading or thinking," he wrote. "My comments are being misunderstood or purposely misquoted."

In particular, Yaqzan said his suggestion that "promiscuous girl[s]" demand monetary payment for sex was taken out of context.

The comment "was only about 'promiscuous' girls. A girl who has slept with boys — many boys."

"It should be obvious that a girl or a woman who is willing to engage in a sexual act with many is not really against that act per se, as would be a girl with a conviction that it is wrong to do so," he wrote.